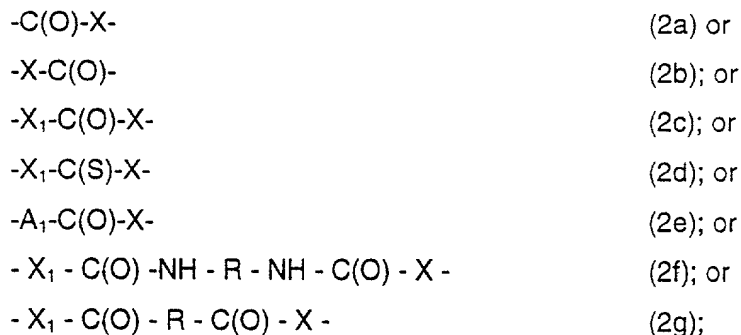


Z is a group which functions as a triggerable precursor for carbene or nitrene formation;

A is a radical of formula

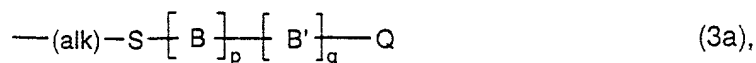


X and X₁ are each independently of the other a group -O- or -NR₂-, wherein R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

A₁ is C₂-C₃₀-alkyl which may be interrupted by -O-;

R is linear or branched C₁-C₁₈-alkylene or unsubstituted or C₁-C₄-alkyl- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted C₆-C₁₀-arylene, C₇-C₁₈-aralkylene, C₆-C₁₀-arylene-C₁-C₂-alkylene-C₆-C₁₀-arylene, C₃-C₈-cycloalkylene, C₃-C₈-cycloalkylene-C₁-C₆-alkylene, C₃-C₈-cycloalkylene-C₁-C₂-alkylene-C₃-C₈-cycloalkylene or C₁-C₆-alkylene-C₃-C₈-cycloalkylene-C₁-C₆-alkylene; and (oligomer) is

(i) the radical of a telomer of formula



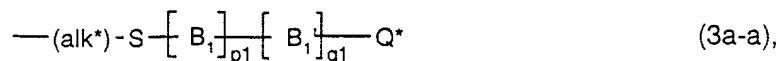
wherein (alk) is C₂-C₁₂-alkylene,

Q is a monovalent group that is suitable to act as a polymerization chain-reaction terminator,

p and q are each independently of another an integer from 0 to 750, wherein the total of (p+q) is an integer from 2 to 750,

and B and B' are each independently of the other a 1,2-ethylene radical derivable from a copolymerizable vinyl monomer by replacing the vinylic double bond by a single bond, at least one of the radicals B and B' being substituted by a hydrophilic substituent; or

(i-i) the radical of a telomer of formula



wherein (alk*) Q*, p₁ and q₁ each independently have the meaning of (alk), Q, p and q,